

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman André Carson joined a bipartisan majority in voting for H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act. H.R. 1338 strengthens the Equal Pay Act so that it will be a more effective tool in combating gender-based pay discrimination. The Paycheck Fairness Act will close numerous loopholes in the Equal Pay Act that have enabled employers to evade liability for gender-based wage discrimination.

“Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act will ensure that pay parity and wage equality are fundamental pillars of the U.S. workforce,” said Congressman Carson. “Merit, overall performance, and accomplishments in the workplace should serve as the guiding principles in determining an employee’s pay, not their gender.”

Although the wage gap between men and women has narrowed since the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963, gender-based wage discrimination remains a problem for women in the U.S. workforce. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women only make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Women of color are worse off. African-American women make 68 percent of men’s earnings while Hispanic women make only 56 percent of men’s earnings.